

| PERSONAL ESSAY                                   | PERSONAL NARRATIVE                                   | PERSONAL MEMOIR                                     |
|--|--|---|
| focused on a BELIEF OR INSIGHT ABOUT LIFE        | focused on a SIGNIFICANT EVENT                       | focused on a SIGNIFICANT RELATIONSHIP               |
| has a deep personal meaning to the writer        | conveys information                                  | usually connects to a person, a place, or an object |
| it is reflective, though it can sound persuasive | tries to persuade or take a particular action        | focuses on a chunk of time in one's life            |
| based on personal experiences or anecdotes       | convince others to change their opinion              |   |
| written in first person                          | has credible sources                                 |   |
| more conversational or entertaining              | written in third person                              |   |
| written like an essay                            | usually a letter, an editorial, or a feature article |   |
| subjective in tone (as it is yours)              | objective in tone                                    |   |
| requires no documentation                        | usually requires documentation                       |   |
| informal in tone, language, and subject matter   | formal in tone, language, and topic selection        |   |